GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5927
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
BAN ON USE OF PESTICIDES IN TEA GROWING
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union Countries have issued fresh guidelines banning more than 300 pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers that cannot be used in growing tea;

(b) if so, whether the guidelines stipulate permissible residual levels of such pesticides/insecticides/fertilizers to be within 3 mgs for a kilo of tea;

(c) whether Srilanka and Indonesia are already ahead in complying with the new EU standards on tea growing; and

(d) if so, India`s present position in relation thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYA SAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): Pesticide Residue limits fixed by European Union for tea as on 16.12.02 covered about 200 chemicals. In most of the cases Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are fixed at the lowest detectable levels.However, there is no banned list of chemicals from the European Union. The limits for chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds are very stringent and this group of chemicals istotally discouraged for application.

(c): The position in respect of compliance of EU regulations by Sri Lanka and Indonesia is not known.

(d): India is making all out efforts to satisfy MRLs fixed by European Union. The guidelines of European Union have already been circulated to the tea industry for information and compliance. The overall position regarding compliance of EU regulations on residue is quite satisfactory in case of Indian teas exported to European Union.